**Stanley River EEC Sun Safety Policy**

**Rationale**

Year-round sun protection is important for all children and young people in Queensland as research demonstrates that high ultraviolet radiation (UVR) exposure in childhood and adolescence significantly increases the risk of developing skin cancer.

Our centre aims to educate everyone about being sun safe in order to develop important, life-long, healthy habits, and acknowledges the important role adults play during and outside school hours to reinforce sun safety with children and young people.

In implementing this policy, our centre and community recognise that:

* the policy applies to all centre and centre-related activities and events;
* the strategies are to be implemented during the whole day and year-round; and
* a combination of sun safe strategies is more effective than a single approach.

**Date of commencement:** January 2022

**Review date:** Annual review undertaken each August

| **ELEMENT**  | **STRATEGIES**  |
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| **Clothing requirements**  | At Stanley River, everyone is required to wear protective clothing, including appropriate hats, when outdoors during the day and during all outdoor centre-related activities to reduce everyone’s exposure to the sun, including the following strategies: **Hats*** Everyone is required to wear appropriate hats when outdoors. The only exceptions when playing sport are when a hat reduces visibility or interferes with activity skills and therefore poses a risk to participants safety; or when wearing a hat is not possible because other headwear is required to be worn for religious or safety reasons. Under these circumstances, participants may remove their hats for the duration of the activity, ensuring they have applied sunscreen to uncovered skin (ideally 20 minutes) prior to participating.
* Appropriate hats are either broad-brimmed, bucket and/or legionnaire hats.
* Staff remind everyone visiting onsite to wear hats when undertaking outdoor activities.
* Participants who do not have hats will be provided a spare clean hat by the centre.

**Swim shirts*** Participants are required to wear long sleeved collared swim shirts/rash vests during all water-based activities occurring at the centre.
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| **Shade provision and use** | Our centre maximises the use of available shade for outdoor activities: |
| **Education** | Our centre provides educational programs on sun safety and preventative measures through the following strategies:**Curriculum, teaching and learning*** Staff include the risk of exposure to UVR in their curriculum activity risk assessments for outdoor activities, which includes ensuring that adequate shade is available for outdoor activities where possible.

**Incidental teaching and promoting sun safe behaviours** * Incidental teaching of personal sun safety strategies occurs in all programs as part of the centre’s routine on a regular basis, for example, through reminders to participants to wear hats and apply sunscreen.

**Staff professional development*** Staff are informed about the centre’s sun safety policy and its requirements on induction.
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| **Sunscreen provision** | Our centre recognises the importance of sunscreen use as a sun safe measure and implements the following strategies:* The centre supplies SPF 50 or higher broad-spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen for participants use.
* Parents/carers are encouraged to provide sunscreen for their child if they don’t wish their child to use the centre’s sunscreen.
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| **Modelling sun safe behaviours** | Our centre promotes the importance of parents/carers, teachers, ancillary staff, volunteers and other adult supervisors as role models for students using the following strategies:* Staff are encouraged to consider the use of shade, sun safe hats and clothing, sunglasses and sunscreen when doing their duties, running outside activities, and when involved in outdoor education programs.
* Parents/carers are encouraged to provide personal sunscreen for their children to use when visiting the centre.
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| **Cost considerations**  | The department provides funding for sun safety using the following strategies:* Centre funding is allocated annually to enable the purchase of sunscreen, hats and long sleeve collared shirts for all visitors each year.
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| **Additional strategies**  | Other strategies our centre uses to be sun safe include:* Sunscreen stations are set up for programs operating onsite.
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| **Endorsed by:**Kylie O’Bree, Business Manager | **Approved by:** Andrew Travis, Principal **Date of approval: 20/01/2022** |